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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 004089

SIPDIS

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I/GNEA, B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD
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LONDON FOR GOLDRICH
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NICOSIA FOR ILMG
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR JO](#)

SUBJECT: JORDAN: MEDIA REACTION ON THE GAZA BOMBING

SUMMARY

JORDANIAN DAILIES ON JULY 24 WERE DOMINATED BY REPORTS ON THE ISRAELI "MASSACRE" IN GAZA, AND REACTIONS TO IT. REPORTS HIGHLIGHTED THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S CRITICISM OF THE RAID, AND ISRAEL'S DESCRIPTION OF IT AS "A GREAT SUCCESS."

EDITORIAL WRITERS RAGED AGAINST THE ISRAELI "MASSACRE." ONE COMMENTARY SAID THAT THE "TRAGEDY IN GAZA MAY ANSWER THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN QUESTION: 'WHY DO THEY HATE US?'" ANOTHER COLUMNIST CHARGED THAT: "SHARON AND BUSH BEAR RESPONSIBILITY".

NEWS REPORTS

ALL JORDANIAN DAILIES ON JULY 24 LED WITH REPORTS OF THE "INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF THE ISRAELI MASSACRE IN GAZA." THE FRONT-PAGE REPORTS, WHICH INCLUDED PHOTOS OF THE CHILDREN KILLED IN THE RAID, HIGHLIGHTED JORDAN'S CONDEMNATION OF THE RAID AND THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S CRITICISM OF IT.

IN SEPARATE STORIES, DAILIES REPORTED THAT: "THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE MASSACRE," WHICH HE DESCRIBED "A GREAT SUCCESS."

EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES

-- WHEN F-16S BOMB PEACE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS
COLUMNIST YASSER ABU HILAHEH WROTE IN SEMI-OFFICIAL INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-RAI ON JULY 24: "ON THE EVE OF THE CRIME HAMAS HAD DECLARED ITS READINESS TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS BEYOND 1948 LINE, PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS WERE SPEAKING WITH OPTIMISM, AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON HAPPY. THERE WAS HOPE OF A SETTLEMENT, BUT SHARON WANTED TO QUASH THIS HOPE, NOT TO SAY THIS ILLUSION. THE ANGER GOES BEYOND SHARON TO THE U.S. THAT GIVES HIM HIS F-16S, AND THAT GIVES FALSE PROMISES TO THE PALESTINIANS. THE TRAGEDY OF GAZA MAY ANSWER THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN QUESTION: 'WHY DO THEY HATE US?' IT ALSO RAISES MANY NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SETTLEMENT, THE REGION, AND THE WORLD."

-- REVENGE IS JUSTIFIED
TAHER AL-ADWAN, CHIEF EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT, MASS-APPEAL ARABIC DAILY AL-ARAB AL-YAWM WROTE ON JULY 24: "AT THE TIME OF WRITING, MORE THAN 12 HOURS AFTER SHARON'S LATEST MASSACRE IN GAZA, AND STILL THERE IS NO REACTION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. WHITE HOUSE REACTIONS TO PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AGAINST THE OCCUPATION DO NOT TAKE MORE THAN 15 TO COME OUT, FULL OF DEROGATORY TERMS AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS. THIS TIME WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO HEAR IT JUSTIFY SHARON AS HAVING ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE. AND THE AMERICAN MEDIA WILL NOT SHOW IN THE U.S. SHOTS OF PALESTINIAN FLESH TORN TO SHREDS BY U.S. MADE AIRCRAFT. THE ONLY PERMISSIBLE FOOTAGE ON THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IS OF MARTYRDOM BOMBERS. BUT NOW ALL THE PROMISES OF REVENGE EXPRESS NOTHING BUT A LEGITIMATE RIGHT, AND SHARON AND BUSH BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ESCALATION BECAUSE EMPLOYING STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY TO KILL CIVILIANS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS THE WORST FORM OF TERRORISM."

-- A WAR CRIME IN GAZA
PROMINENT COLUMNIST URAIB AL-RANTAWI WROTE IN CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR ON JULY 24: "WASHINGTON, WHICH IS NORMALLY FASTER THAN TEL AVIV TO CONDEMN ANY PALESTINIAN COMMANDO OPERATION, IS NOW SILENT AS A TOMB. SOME MAY SEE THIS AS ENCOURAGING SINCE THE TRACK RECORD OF BUSH IS TO DEFEND 'ISRAEL'S LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE.'" AND KOFI ANNAN, WHO

COULD NOT FIND IN THE LEXICONS OF THE NUMEROUS
LANGUAGES THAT HE SPEAKS ADEQUATE TERMS OF CONDEMNATION
OF THE PALESTINIANS, IS NOW CONTENTED TO EXPRESS REGRET
THROUGH A SPOKESMAN. STILL, THE MOST DANGEROUS ASPECT
OF THIS OPERATION IS THAT IT CAME HOURS AFTER HAMAS
LEADER AHMAD YASSIN ACCEPTED TO SUSPEND MARTYRDOM
OPERATIONS IF ISRAEL ACCEPTS TO STOP TARGETING
PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS. ISRAEL CLEARLY WANTED TO
SABOTAGE EFFORTS AT A PEACE SETTLEMENT, BECAUSE SUCH A
SETTLEMENT WOULD IMPOSE ON IT COMMITMENTS THAT IT HAS
NO WISH OF HONORING." GNEHM